



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

SPED 03-20

M E M O R A N D U M

To: School Superintendents
Principals
Special Education Directors
Testing Coordinators

February 28, 2003

From: Lynn Busenbark, Ph.D., Co-Director, Exceptional Student Services
Steve Mishlove, Co-Director, Exceptional Student Services

Re: No Child Left Behind Legislation and Testing Students with Disabilities

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) dictates that all students must be assessed against age appropriate grade level standards. A workgroup of special educators, assessment coordinators and ADE staff have been working since November to develop a recommendation to the superintendent and State Board regarding the issue. At the last meeting, the group decided to recommend the elimination of OOL testing for the spring administration in **2004**. To do otherwise would jeopardize the NCLB funding to the state. This, along with several other recommendations, will be forwarded to the superintendent and Board for their action. No changes to OOL will occur for this year's test administration.

The workgroup is currently working to develop a detailed guide to assessing students with disabilities, which will be available within the next two months on the ADE website. However, IEPs that will be in effect during testing time next year may be developed before this document is available. IEP teams should aware that out-of-level testing on both the SAT-9 and the AIMS is unlikely to be permitted after this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Maja Aleksic at (602) 542-5101.